

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

**Status of Claims:**

No claims are currently being cancelled.

Claims 1, 11 and 13 are currently being amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 11 and 13 may be found, for example, in Figure 6 of the drawings (see steps ST505 and ST506 in particular).

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-15 are pending in this application.

**Claim Rejections – Prior Art:**

In the Office Action, claims 1-9 and 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 6-105119 (Fuji Xerox); and claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuji Xerox in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,061,146 to Mori. These rejections are traversed with respect to presently pending claims 1-15, for at least the reasons given below.

The present invention, as exemplified by the presently pending independent claims 1, 11 and 13, enables compression processing to be executed at high speed simultaneously with rotation processing. In particular, presently pending independent claim 1 has been amended to recite compressing means for compressing image data of a block which skips rotation processing by said controlling means such that a virtual white line is used as a reference line or image data of a block subjected to rotation processing by said rotation processing means such that a line immediately preceding the block is used as the reference line, and for determining resulting data as code data.

JP 6-105119 (Fuji Xerox) does not disclose or suggest how to compress data for which rotation processing has been executed, and JP 6-105119 does not disclose or suggest the above-recited features of the compression means in presently pending independent claim 1.

Since the other independent claims under rejection have been amended in a manner similar to that discussed above with respect to claim 1, each of the presently pending independent claims 1, 11 and 13 is not anticipated by JP 6-105119.

The presently pending dependent claims under rejection are patentable for the specific features recited in those dependent claims, as well as for their respective dependency on one of the presently pending independent claims 1, 11 and 13.

**Conclusion:**

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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